

# THE WEEKLY ARIZONAN.

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## M. Faib and his Astronomical Predictions.

Most of the news from the South by the last mail, came mingled with fears and anxieties excited by the predictions of Astronomer Faib. Certainly, if it is any satisfaction and honor to a scientific man to have his deductions read and attended to wherever the voice of the Press can be heard, Mr. F. has little reason to complain. Along the coast of Peru, many of the most intelligent families have removed away from the sea, until the period of the possible fulfillment of the prediction shall have passed over. During the middle ages the appearance of a comet and other common celestial phenomena were sufficient to disturb the tranquillity of entire nations. They looked to heaven and the ceremonies of the church to protect them. The voice of science was neither heard nor sought for. Now-a-days science has ascertained for us how even the most distant planets effect our moral and physical welfare. Even the spots on the sun's disc, though 90,000,000 miles off, effect our magnetic instruments; showing how our terrestrial and aerial electricity are obedient to the solar influence, and by producing depression or elevation in the state of man's mind, may make him enthusiastic, reckless or spiritless. As to earthquakes, here we seem to enjoy a not easily explained immunity from such events; somehow or other this part of the isthmus seems to lie outside of the line of direction of both northern and southern volcanic disturbances. In Chiriqui, to the north of us, they are yearly felt more or less, becoming more severe as we penetrate into the Central American States. There is not in the history of Panama, since its establishment, any evidence or record of severe earthquakes. The towers of the cathedral and the saints in its niches seem never to have stirred from their rigid contemplative attitudes since it was built. All this, we admit, affords but little consolation to our friends whose dwellings rest above the volcanic subterranean region of South America. However we often suffer real evils by too keenly anticipating events whose recurrence certainly falls within the circle of possibility; but still does not admit of absolute certainty. How often has the end of the world been predicted, founded, it is true, only on moral calculations which cannot claim anything like mathematical certainty. It is said of Rev. Dr. Cummings, who has also had his share of such gloomy vaticinations, that in making a new contract for renting a house, he wished to have it at a much lower price, seeing that the end of all things was so near.

It must be admitted that our friends both at Calloa and Atica have abundant reason to be uneasy. The lesson taught both places, especially the latter, has been too terrible to be forgotten. To a stranger arriving for the first time at Calloa, the formation of the shingly soil and point upon which it is built is very striking. As he walks through the recently made streets, running over the site of old Calloa, and sees upturned human skulls and bones, the relics of the former city on the one hand, and the small elevation above the sea on the other, he can scarcely help saying to himself what a slight oscillation of the land would be sufficient to sweep again the present inhabitants and buildings into the "mar brava." Nevertheless we have the overwhelming earthquakes of Lisbon, Port Royal, Caracas and other places which have never been repeated.

We translate for our readers part of a letter written from Taona to the Comercio de Lima, under date of August 15th:

"The days have passed when, according to Mr. Faib, we ought to have had violent terrestrial movements. However, about 5 a. m. of the 14th inst., some noise was heard, but without any further results. But as it might be a prelude to the terrible earthquake which is expected to occur about the end of September, or beginning of October, everybody feels anxious and dispirited from the mere idea that the cataclysm of the 13th of August, last year, might be repeated. Many families still remain

in the fields, suffering from cold and exposure, deeming it safer than the city, to await the fatal day. Disregarding the probabilities of serious diseases, such as pleurisy or other inflammations of the chest and lungs which are apt to be engendered by such exposure at this season of the year."

So it is under all such trying circumstances, man is apt to suffer certain evils while trying to escape future ones, which might never occur. It is right to exercise a prudent yet watchful resignation. Those in Arica who took an intelligent notice of the retiring of the sea beyond its usual bounds, preparatory to forming the return wave, and moved to higher ground escaped with life.

To Mr. Faib we owe our thanks for the warning he sends us. The physician predicts from the symptoms the approach of a serious disease, and at the same time comforts us by pointing out the means by which a fatal catastrophe is to be avoided. We ask—can no instrument be devised which, like the barometer, would tell us locally of the coming storm? The wild Indian places his ear to the ground and hears the far off footsteps of the horses of his enemy. The awful and terrible footsteps of nature, in her reconstructive moods, impress us with fear and trembling. Man can only stand aside with reverent awe until she has past.—[Panama Star and Herald.]

## Alexander Von Humboldt.

The following description of the appearance of Alexander von Humboldt is from the pen of Bayard Taylor, who saw him in November, 1856, three years before his death: As I looked at the majestic old man, the line of Tennessee, describing Wellington, came into my mind "Oh, good gray head, which all men know." The first impression made by Humboldt's face was that of a broad and genial humanity. His massive brow, heavy with the gathered wisdom of nearly a century, bent forward and overhung his breast like a ripe ear of corn; but when you looked below it a pair of clear eyes, almost as bright and steady as a child's, met your own. In these eyes you read that trust in man, that immortal youth of the heart, which made the snows of 87 winters lie so lightly on his head. You trusted him utterly at the first glance, and you felt that he would trust you, if you were worthy of it. I had approached him with a natural feeling of reverence, but in five minutes I found that I loved him, and could talk with him as freely as with a friend of my own age. His nose, mouth and chin had the heavy Teutonic character, whose genuine type always expresses an honest simplicity and directness. His wrinkles were few and small, and his skin had a smoothness and delicacy rarely seen in old men. His hair, although snow-white was still abundant, his step slow but firm, and his manner active almost to restlessness. I could not perceive that his memory, the first mental faculty to show decay, was at all impaired. He talked rapidly and with the greatest apparent ease, never hesitating for a word, whether in English or German, and, in fact, appeared to be unconscious which language he was using, as he changed five or six times in the course of the conversation. "You have traveled much and seen many ruins," said Humboldt, as he gave me his hand; "now you have seen one more." "Not a ruin," I could not help replying, "but a pyramid." For I pressed the hand which had touched those of Frederick the Great, Foster, the champion of Capt. Cook, of Klopstock and Schiller, of Pitt, Napoleon, Josephine, the Marshals of the Empire, Jefferson, Hamilton, Wieland, Herder, Evertie, Cuvier, La Place, Gay, Lussac, Beethoven, Walter Scott—in short, every great man whom Europe has produced in three-quarters of a century.

The expedition under Gen. Duncan, which left Fort McPherson for Republican River, surprised a camp of fifty-six lodges, last Sunday, and drove the Indians away, capturing a large quantity of supplies and camp equipage. They killed one Indian and wounded two.—Dencer News, Oct. 6th.

## CONVENTION

BETWEEN  
THE GENERAL POST OFFICE OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND IRELAND, AND THE GENERAL  
POST OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA.

The General Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the General Post Office of the United States of America, being desirous of establishing and maintaining an exchange of mails between the United States on the one side and the colony of British Honduras on the other, by means of the British mail packet plying between New Orleans and Belize, the undersigned, duly authorized for that purpose, have agreed upon the following articles:

### ARTICLE I.

There shall be a direct exchange of mails between the office of New Orleans on the one part and the office of Belize on the other, comprising letters, newspapers, book packets, and packets of patterns or samples, originating in the United States and addressed to the British Honduras, or originating in the British Honduras and addressed to the United States.

These mails shall be conveyed by the British mail packets established between New Orleans and Belize, so long as the British government shall deem it expedient to maintain such packets.

### ARTICLE II.

The postage to be collected in British Honduras upon paid correspondence addressed to the United States shall be sixpence per single letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, heavier letters being charged in proportion; one penny for each newspaper, and threepence per four ounces for book packets, or packets of patterns or samples; and the postage to be collected in the United States upon paid correspondence addressed to British Honduras shall be twelve cents per single letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, heavier letters being charged in proportion; two cents on each newspaper, and six cents per four ounces on book packets, or packets of patterns or samples.

The postage in either direction must in all cases be wholly prepaid.

The correspondence thus paid shall be delivered at the place of destination, whether in the United States or in British Honduras, free from all charge whatsoever.

### ARTICLE III.

The exchange of correspondence referred to in Article II, preceding, shall not give rise to any accounts between the British and the United States post offices. Each office shall keep the postage which it collects.

### ARTICLE IV.

Every letter, newspaper, book packet or packet of patterns or samples, dispatched from one office to another, shall be plainly stamped in red ink, with a stamp bearing the word "Paid" on the right hand corner of the address, and shall also bear the dated stamp of the office at which it was posted.

### ARTICLE V.

Dead letters, newspapers, &c., which cannot be delivered, from whatever cause, shall be mutually returned without charge monthly, or as frequently as the regulations of the respective offices will permit.

### ARTICLE VI.

The two offices may, by mutual consent, make such detailed regulations as shall be found necessary to carry out the objects of this agreement; such regulations to terminate at any time, on a reasonable notice by either office.

### ARTICLE VII.

This convention shall come into operation on the 1st day of October, 1869, and shall be terminable at any time on a notice by either office, of six months.

Done in duplicate, and signed in Washington on the 11th day of August, 1869, and in London on the 4th day of September, 1869.

[SEAL] JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,  
Postmaster General.

[SEAL] HARTINGTON,  
Postmaster General of the United Kingdom.

I hereby approve the foregoing convention, and in testimony thereof I have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed,

[SEAL] U. S. GRANT.

By the President: HAMILTON FISH,  
Secretary of State.

Washington, August 11, 1869.